

Draft Southeast PTO Meeting

February 7, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Attending: Julie Brown, Mike Kelly, Jessica Higham, Kimberly Clark, Monique Brown, Cyndi Wells, Esther Soffer-Roberts, Andrea Lennon, Norma Fisher-Doiron, Matvey Sokolovsky

School Building Project:

Mark LaPlaca - started the meeting off with some background of the School Building Project. Mark LaPlaca told the PTO that the Board of Education's (BOE) first recommendation was to build one school and make updates to Mansfield Middle School. Later, the BOE did a reevaluation of the School Building Project and recommended to the Town Building Committee to build two schools which was called option E. The Board of Education has been asked to look at reducing the cost of Option E. The following is the list of changes that have been suggested.

- Reduction from 16 classrooms at each school to 14 classrooms at each school (Pre K and K will stay the same).
- No reduction in classroom size. The number of students in each class will still be within the guidelines.
- Small reduction in size of world language room and nurse's office
- Small increase in size of greenhouse, Title 1 resource room and enrichment room.
- Elimination of IA workroom
- Reduction in size of gymnasium from 5000 square feet to 3,300 square feet. The current gym in Southeast is about 1,900 square feet. The gymnasium and the cafeteria will still be separated in the new schools.
- Reduction in square footage of work at the middle school by 2,800 square feet
 1. Elimination of moving office and nurse's office
 2. Prioritization of replacing re-locatable classrooms as science labs

Mark LaPlaca – These suggestions will result in a reduction of cost of the entire project of 4 million.

Mark LaPlaca – told the PTO that there is concern that not having a school near the location of the current Goodwin school would be bad for the area because of the amount of rental properties. Mark LaPlaca told the PTO that having one school at the Goodwin site would cover more the north and south of Mansfield. An architect looked at building one of the schools at the Goodwin site.

- There would be an estimated 1 million dollar expenditure for land acquisition though this is not negotiated or for certain
- There would hopefully be a return of \$550,000 by selling off part of the land acquired after the school is finished

- Without the purchase of at least some of both properties, it would be extremely difficult to fit a school in the flat land available while the existing school remained open.

Mark LaPlaca – stated that the Board of Education believes that waiting would be bad because the cost will be higher and there probably will be less funding from the state in the future. Mark LaPlaca told the PTO that when the state budget is completed it will help in making some of these decisions.

Esther Soffer-Roberts – asked if the workshops are open to the public.

Mark LaPlaca – believed that the workshop is open but will probably only allow comments at the end of the workshop

Julie Brown - asked if the state funding will still be there this year.

Mark LaPlaca – believes that the reimbursement will still be there but he is concerned if Mansfield wait too long reimbursement will be less likely.

Matvey Sokolovsky – mentioned that he did not like either option because he has concerns about the state cutting the funding. Matvey Sokolovsky then asked what happens if Mansfield has to fund the whole project.

Mark LaPlaca – the cost of the School Building Project is part of what is getting voted on by the town. If the funding from the state is eliminated changing the cost for the project, it would need to be voted on again. Mark LaPlaca explained that if the recommendations get approved and the schedule is not delayed, the project should break ground in May and be completed by fall of 2014.

Matvey Sokolovsky – asked if the town has considered changing Goodwin school into dorms to help pay for the School Building Project.

Mark LaPlaca – mentioned that many options have been brought up during meetings including assisted living for elderly or senior center. He does not recall anyone suggesting this to the Town Council. Mark said that decisions about the old schools will need to be made by the Town Council and will not involve the Board of Education.

Jess Higham – liked the idea of the Senior Center because it might persuade voters towards the new schools.

Andrea Lennon – asked if the estimated amounts for the options include the cost of equipment for the schools.

Mark LaPlaca – explained that the amount is the total cost which includes furniture and equipment.

Matvey Sokolovsky – asked with only one or two schools, what if the child population increases in Mansfield

Mark LaPlaca – explained that two schools allows more flexibility than one and believes that the new schools would have a better design to handle the increase in children. Mark LaPlaca told the PTO that he feels comfortable that the projected enrollment will be handled with any of the options.

New Items:

PTO discussed the new school schedule (adjusted due to snow days) with Mark LaPlaca

Esther Soffer-Roberts – asked if delayed openings count as snow days

Mark LaPlaca – explained those delayed openings do not count as snow days and do not need to be added to the school schedule.

Julie Brown – asked if there are more snow days what can they do to the school schedule.

Mark LaPlaca – if there are only one or two more snow days they will just add them to the end of the year but, if there are any more than two they will need to look at other options. According to state guidelines the school year cannot go later than June 30th. Some other options that can be considered are taking from the April vacation or the Board of Education lowering the number of required school days to the state guidelines of 180 days. Currently Mansfield requires 183 school days a year.

PTO decided to have the Carnival on September 28, 2011 and the rain date will be October 1, 2011.

Jess Higham – Is still working on the Thank You letters from the silent auction and is looking for an additional \$63.00 for postage.

Andrea Lennon motioned to approve the amount of \$63.00 and **Kimberly Clark** seconded the motion

Julie Brown – told the PTO that Elissa Millspaugh will be coming to the school to talk about the new Mansfield website called Mansfield Patch.

Kimberly Clark – told the PTO that she currently has the Science Sampler showing a profit and it shouldn't.

Norma Fisher-Doiron and **Kimberly Clark** will get together to take a look at the discrepancy.

Kimberly Clark – explained to the PTO that it would cost \$850.00 to get 501 non-profit number.

Kimberly Clark motioned to approve the amount of \$850.00 to apply for a non-profit number and **Jess Higham** seconded the motion.

Michael Kelly motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report and **Jess Higham** seconded the motion.

Principal's Report:

Norma Fisher-Doiron – mentioned that the NuVal parent hour will be on June 6th.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – told the PTO that this year's progress reports for students has been moved to March 18th.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – told the PTO that CMT testing was moved to the week of March 14th. The Writing Assignment subtest will be administered on March 8th.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – will look into the \$625.00 being added to the enrichment cost for Kid Power as the PTO doesn't remember approving this amount.

Andrea Lennon motioned to approve the amount of \$625.00 for Kid Power and **Michael Kelly** seconded the motion.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – updated the PTO on the incident of the leak in Ms. Hathway's classroom. The leak came from a broken drain pipe and this pipe has since been fixed. Ms. Hathway's classroom carpet was cleaned and dried. An environmental technician was brought in to test the classroom environment and carpet for allergens. Ms. Hathway's class was moved to the library during this time.

Norma Fisher Doiron – told the PTO that a structural engineer came to Southeast and inspected the portable classrooms. The engineer was very pleased with the strength of the structures and told Norma Fisher-Doiron that the snow on the roof shouldn't be a concern.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – mentioned that the school nurse position is still open and they are still in the process of interviewing candidates.

Vice President's Report:

Andrea Lennon – told the PTO that the Family Skate day will be February 12th and there are concerns that the rink might not be open due to snow on the roof. Currently the UConn rink is closed and she is hoping it will be open by the 12th.

Andrea Lennon – mentioned that the First Aid Fundraiser is running and it is looking like it will be quite a success.

PTO discussed that Kimberly Clark, Andrea Lennon, and Julie Brown are stepping down next year and their positions will be open.

Michael Kelly motioned to accept the meeting minutes and Kimberly Clark seconded the motion

9:05 pm the PTO meeting adjourned